



HOLIDAY 2012

WHISPERING HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Check out the new website!

Your Board of Directors wishes to announce the launching of the new Whispering Hills Subdivision website which is available to all of you at whisperinghillssubdivision.com. The website has a number of drop down tabs that provide easy access to the following:

1. Announcements, events calendar, emergency numbers, and copies of the quarterly newsletters.
2. Summary descriptions of the subdivision's amenities
3. Copies of important documents and forms i.e. Indenture of Trust and By-laws
4. Copies of protected documents i.e. Homeowners Association financials and summary board meeting minutes.
5. Listings of important contacts such as Board and Section Rep contact information and the Homeowner Directory are accessible by logging in. Contact sandsud@sbcglobal.net for the user name and password.

Please make sure that you keep this username and password confidential.

The board would also like to acknowledge at this time the tremendous efforts put forth by the following people to get the website up and running:

Mr. Dick Heinze - Programming
Ms. Marcherie Vazquez - Design and content
Mr. Barry Brimer - Host server
Ms. Marilyn Sander - Newsletters and the design of the website masthead
Board members reviewed and edited content for accuracy

You are encouraged to visit the website and to add it to your favorites list. The website will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

Annual Adult Holiday Gathering December 15 at the Clubhouse

Join us for the Whispering Hills annual party at the clubhouse. Enjoy food, fun and prizes. Music will be provided by Alan Oxenhandler.

Saturday, December 15
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Must RSVP by calling
314.434.5400

Winter School Bus Safety

The following winter school bus safety tips will help to keep your child safe throughout the winter months.

- Allow extra time to get to your bus stop
- Wear bright clothing so the bus driver can see you in the early morning and late evening
- Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Use the handrail when boarding or exiting the bus to prevent slipping on wet or icy steps or road surfaces
- Dress properly—winter clothing, hats, and boots will keep you warm
- Do not throw snowballs at the bus or at other children and do not slide on the snow or ice
- Do not push or shove around the bus.

If the bus is late because of weather conditions or mechanical problems. Talk to your child about what to do if the bus is late. Here are some suggestions:

- When possible, wait with your child for the bus
- Make sure your child knows a phone number where he can reach you or another trusted adult and teach your child how and where to get help. Talk to your child about what a "safe" stranger is.
- Help your child set up a bus stop buddy system so your child has someone to wait with for the bus.



Pedestrian Safety

The leaves have fallen and the next season may bring snow and ice. Please be considerate of our neighbors who walk through the subdivision. Acorns and sweet gum balls hide under leaves on the sidewalk and are dangerous to walkers, as are the snow and ice not shoveled. Let's all keep sidewalks clear of debris, ice and snow.

Neighborhood Services

Please, contact Gloria De Zamacona via email at gloriac1502@aol.com if you need or can provide these services: baby-sitting, pet sitting, dog walking, leaf raking, snow shoveling, lawn cutting, bush trimming, or house cleaning. Services would be performed for a fee determined by those providing them.

Save energy by winterizing your home

1. Moisten your hand with water and run it along the interior edges of your windows, doors and baseboards on exterior walls. If you feel a small draft it means you have a gap that is letting warm air out and cold air in. To solve this problem you need to fill the gap with caulking. You can buy caulking in tubes which can be applied using a caulking gun all available at little cost from any home improvement center or hardware store.
2. Also check your storm doors. If it doesn't close firmly, you are losing that insulating pocket of air between it and your exterior door. Test for gaps by closing it on a dollar bill and trying to pull the bill out. If it slides out easily, your weather stripping is worn and needs to be replaced.
3. Also check your fireplace. It's amazing how many people leave the flue open to let the fire die out overnight but then forget to close the flue in the morning. When that happens, the heat you are paying for just goes up the flue to the open air. But even if you close the flue, you may not have a properly sealed opening, and the best fix is to install a glass door with vents at the bottom.
4. In homes with forced air heating, it's very important to change your filters regularly, because dirty filters prevent air flow and it takes a lot more heat to keep the house at a comfortable temperature. Also run your hand along the duct work in your basement. If you feel any heat escaping along a seam, it's costing you extra to heat your house and you need to get the duct properly sealed. But putting duct tape on it will not do the trick, because it will only get crisp and brittle and fall off before too long. If you are going to try to seal it use metal foil tape or call a heating contractor.
5. In addition, take a look at the amount of insulation in your attic and walls. Most homes have foam board nailed to the rim joist and sprayed insulations at the edges of walls and floors but you can still lose heat thru your walls and might want to consider having insulation blown into exterior walls. The same applies to attics. Blown insulation is often used in this area but over the years it settles and becomes less effective, so an additional layer can be applied to restore the energy saving efficiency you desire.

Message from John Schembri, President and Trustee

First of all I wish that you all enjoy the winter holidays with your family and friends and that the New Year brings you health, happiness and joy.

This past year has been an eventful one for your board and the subdivision as a whole. I would like to highlight what I believe have been some notable accomplishments.

The year began with summarization of the fence committee's work on the new fence approval process and the passage of the first amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws which established for the first time a listing of approved fence styles and a formal approval process. The committee chairperson was Marcherie Vazquez. Committee members were Kevin Brown, Bob Heck, Marilyn Sander, Steve Schlegel, Barbara Graham, Jan Williams, Mike Bergstrom, and myself. I would like to thank them for their time and dedication.

The Common Grounds Committee submitted a plan for upgrading the common grounds areas within the subdivision. Overseen by Susie Brown, the committee Chairwoman, dead trees and overgrown bushes were removed, as well as the various graveled planting beds surrounded by rotting railroad tie borders. The planning beds were replaced with grass, creating open lawn spaces. Susie will continue her good work by overseeing the renovation of the front entrance in the spring of next year. She should be congratulated for her tireless effort on behalf of the homeowners.

We also started to work with the St. Louis County Police Department to implement a Neighborhood Watch Program, headed by Bob Sudholt with the assistance of Block Captains Bob Heck and Tink Sullivan. This committee will help ensure that incidents of concern to the homeowners will be properly reported and dealt with in a timely manner.

Our Board Secretary Marilyn Sander and Section 1 Rep Marcherie Vazquez started a new subdivision newsletter to be published quarterly. The newsletter provides information about things happening within the subdivision as well as the areas surrounding us. The Summer newsletter was very well received. I want to congratulate both Marilyn and Marcherie on a job well done.

The board also decided to activate some of the standing

committees in the By-Laws. Among these were the Social and the Special Occasions committees. Bob Sudholt agreed to take over as chairman of the Social Committee and hosted a Rams football game at the clubhouse which was open to all homeowners. Celia Mullikan became the chairwoman of the Special Occasions Committee. She not only welcomed the new homeowners, the Lopez's on Tallow Hill Ln., but also reviewed the subdivision's amenities and answered any questions they had.

Soon after that the board began to focus on our subdivision website. The intent was to provide homeowners access to important documents, calendar events, and subdivision amenities. This major undertaking included design, programming, hosting, and purchasing rights to the website name. One of our board members volunteered to be responsible for the design, and two homeowners contributed by providing the hosting site and doing the programming. The site design and content was done by Marcherie Vazquez; the site hosting was provided by Barry Brimer. All programming was done by Dick Heinze who had never done any programming before. He did an outstanding job. The end result is truly a professional looking and well-functioning website. My hat is off to both Dick and Marcherie for a job well done.

In September, the board conducted the first mid-year general homeowner's meeting, providing a financial update, previewing the website and putting forth a motion to raise the Homeowners Association Fee from \$2.00 to \$20.00 per homeowner per year. The motion was voted on and passed.

Least I forget the efforts put forth by the other members of the board. I wish to acknowledge the untiring efforts of Gene King our Treasure, Kevin Brown our Vice President, and Rosie Clark, Gloria De Zamacona, Jan Williams and Brad Stiegemeir who are our section representatives.

The General Membership Meeting will take place on Tuesday, Feb 12, 2013, at 7:00 PM at the Clubhouse lobby. I hope you can attend and see the exciting things planned for the next year.





Holiday Recipes

Enjoy these 4 to 5 star rated recipes or search for you own at www.allrecipes.com. Click on the live link below the item to access ingredients and directions.

Rosemary Roasted Turkey
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/rosemary-roasted-turkey/detail.aspx>

Garlic Prime Rib
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/garlic-prime-rib/detail.aspx>

Baked Ham with Sweet Glaze
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/baked-ham-with-sweet-glaze/detail.aspx>

Spinach Pomegranate Salad
<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Spinach-Pomegranate-Salad/Detail.aspx?src=mer724>

Green Salad with Cranberry Vinaigrette
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/green-salad-with-cranberry-vinaigrette/detail.aspx>

Teena's Bacon and Cheddar Potatoes
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/teenas-bacon-and-cheddar-potatoes/detail.aspx>

Sweet Potato Souffle
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/sweet-potato-souffle/detail.aspx>

Never Enough Green Bean Casserole
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/never-enough-green-bean-casserole/detail.aspx>

Acorn Squash with Apple
<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Acorn-Squash-with-Apple/Detail.aspx>

Clone of a Cinnabon
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/clone-of-a-cinnabon/detail.aspx>

Downeast Maine Pumpkin Bread
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/downeast-maine-pumpkin-bread/detail.aspx>

Apple Pie by Grandma Ople
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/apple-pie-by-grandma-ople/detail.aspx>

Sugar Coated Pecans
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/sugar-coated-pecans/detail.aspx>

Caramel Corn Snack Mix
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/caramel-corn-snack-mix-2/detail.aspx>

Dried Cherries, Pecans and Rosemary Brie en Croute
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/dried-cherries-pecans-and-rosemary-brie-en-croute/detail.aspx>

Double Layer Pumpkin Cheesecake
<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/double-layer-pumpkin-cheesecake-2/detail.aspx>

Peppermint Cookies
<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Peppermint-Cookies-2/Detail.aspx>

Magic Cookie Bars II
http://allrecipes.com/recipe/magic-cookie-bars-ii/detail.aspx?src=lp4163_13&adkeyvalues=holiday,cookiecountdown

The Best Rolled Sugar Cookies
http://allrecipes.com/recipe/the-best-rolled-sugar-cookies/detail.aspx?src=lp4163_12&adkeyvalues=holiday,cookiecountdown

Amazingly Good Eggnog
<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Amazingly-Good-Eggnog/Detail.aspx>





How To Winterize Your Yard

Care for your yard is a year round job and that includes preparing it for winter. Here are a few steps you can take to prevent damage and ensure healthy spring growth:

1. Lawns

- a. At the beginning of fall, reseed any bare areas making sure to rake the ground and cover seed with loose soil. Grass roots grow well in the fall, but using a little starter fertilizer helps. Make sure you water daily until you have at least an inch or two of leaf growth.
- b. Apply a winterizing fertilizer to the entire lawn in early November. This fertilizer encourages root growth rather than leaf growth and will help the root system spread as well as penetrate deeper into the soil to protect it from the hot drying sun of summer.
- c. Rake lawn to remove leaves and thatch that may have built up from grass cutting during the regular season. The leaves can prevent the nutrients from the fertilizer from reaching the roots if it is too thick and matted.
- d. Give your lawn a final cut at about 1" and bag any grass or debris.

2. Trees

- a. Refrain from watering trees from mid-summer through early fall to allow trees to harden.
- b. Beginning in mid-fall, ensure that trees get a good watering at least once a week (through rain or hose) and continue to do so until the ground freezes.
- c. Also in mid-fall prune and remove any visible deadwood and branches that may drag on the ground or are low enough that they may cause an obstruction to performing normal yard maintenance or lawn cutting.
- d. Near the end of fall, spread a layer of mulch around the base of all trees but leave a space between the trunk and the beginning of the mulch to discourage rodents from nesting.
- e. Toward the end of fall, apply a winter tree or lawn fertilizer.

3. Shrubs and Bushes

- a. In autumn, you should prune the branches of your shrubs and bushes as a preventive measure to keep the

accumulation of snow and ice though the winter months from causing sagging and breakage of limbs. Start by removing the smaller, weaker branches.

The thicker the branches are at the point that they attach to the trunk the more likely they will withstand the weight of winter conditions.

- b. Piling mulch around the base of your shrubs and bushes will prevent the loss of moisture when they rely mostly on stored water supplies as well as help to control rapid temperature fluctuations in the soil around the plant both of which can result in the browning of evergreen plants and the reduction of foliage in deciduous plants.
- c. If the shrub is spindly and tall, you may want to use a tree wrap to hold the limbs upright and prevent heavy snow and ice from accumulating and causing breakage or splitting at the base.

What To Do If You Smell Natural Gas In Or Around You Home

1. Leave your home/building immediately and warn others.
2. Don't turn electrical appliances on or off as you leave because even light switches and cell phones can cause a spark which could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.
3. If a pilot light in a stove or water heater is substantially higher than normal it might be an indication of excessive pressure in the gas line.
4. Call the utility company from another location and stay away until the repair crew advises that it is safe to return to your home.
5. If you hear a hissing sound, smell gas, see dead vegetation or ice formation on the ground above a pipeline there is probably a gas leak. Again, call the utility company immediately and warn others to stay away from the area.
6. If your furnace is over ten (10) years old it may have a cracked burner which could become the source of a gas leak. To be sure it is in good condition, contact your local gas utility and they will have a service man check it out for you.